

FIRST FRIDAY MAY 2024

VALLEY BUSINESS NEWS

Chamber news and member happenings!



WALLA WALLA VALLEY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



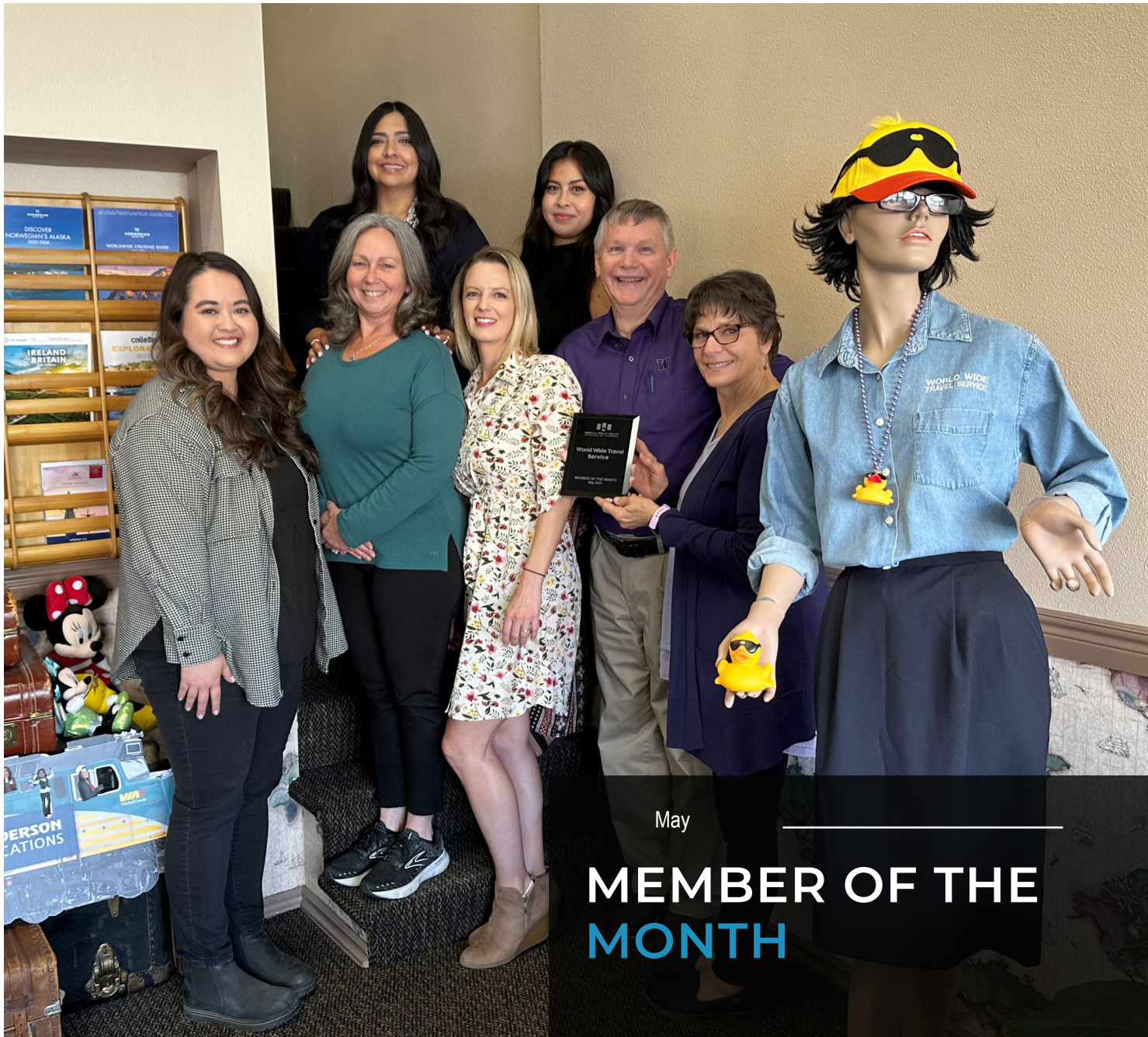
WWV YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Can you tell your story effectively?



COMMUNITY GRANT

Applications are open for Columbia REA's grant program giving up to \$10,000 to local organizations



May

MEMBER OF THE MONTH

WORLD WIDE TRAVEL

Since opening its doors in 1945, World Wide Travel Service has worked diligently to earn the reputation of being the premier travel agency in the area. Located in the heart of downtown Walla Walla, their storefront location offers a convenient and friendly place for your travel planning. They enjoy in-office consultations and are equally happy to assist their valued clients via phone and email. Through many referrals from satisfied customers, they now provide travel services to clients worldwide. They are dedicated to offering the best possible travel experience and stand ready to welcome you into their World Wide Travel Service family.

“

Our personalized service begins with your first call and continues through every travel detail until your return home”

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS/ BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Canvasback Winery

Thursday, May 16
5:30 pm- 7:00 pm

1825 J B George Rd
Walla Walla

Creating wines that are as complex as they are captivating, Canvasback is following the model established decades ago by Duckhorn Vineyards, and combines grapes from top growers with fruit from Canvasback's own estate vineyard.

Come connect with other business professionals in a fun casual environment! Each event is hosted by a different member business. Hosts provide food and beverages to enjoy while providing opportunities to learn about their business and meet their team.

These events are free to attend and Chamber membership is not required. So round up your co-workers, friends and colleagues and enjoy an evening of conversation and connections.

To assist our host with a headcount for food and beverage, please RSVP.

[RSVP HERE](#)



RIBBON CUTTINGS

KERRY'S TRINIDADIAN CUISINE

Tuesday, May 7
3:30 pm

330 W Main St
Walla Walla

Join us for Ribbon Cutting to celebrate our new member, Kerry's Trinidadian Cuisine!

THE SODA STOP

Friday, May 17
10:00 am

1705 SE Meadowbrook St #1
College Place

The Soda Stop is celebrating their one year anniversary with a Ribbon Cutting! On Saturday, they will be giving out free 24 oz sodas with one flavor added.

THE HERITAGE CLINIC

Thursday, May 30
4:00 pm

1129 S 2nd Ave suite B
Walla Walla

Join us for Ribbon Cutting to celebrate the Grand Opening of The Heritage Clinic! They will host an open house until 7 pm.

PETERSEN HASTINGS

Thursday, June 6
4:00 pm

1129 S 2nd Ave suite B
Walla Walla

Join us for Ribbon Cutting to celebrate the Grand Opening of their brand new office in downtown Walla Walla! Stick around to learn more about their team and services with wine from Seven Hills and bites from Red Monkey.

CHAMBER ROUNDTABLES



Roundtables are small group discussions where all attendees are encouraged to participate. Roundtables are typically for a specific sector or industry to pose questions, discuss current challenges and exchange ideas.

Roundtables are free and Membership is not required, RSVP is required as space is limited. If capacity has been reached, please add your name to the wait list.

Small Business, Self-Employed & Sales

Wednesday, May 22
8:30 am- 9:45 am

29 E Sumach St
Walla Walla

Those who employ five or less employees or are self-employed are invited to join us for a discussion to foster knowledge sharing, connection making and collaboration.

[RSVP HERE](#)

Arts, History & Culture

Tuesday, June 26
8:30 am- 9:45 am

29 E Sumach St
Walla Walla

Those in the Arts, History & Culture sectors are invited to join us for a discussion to foster knowledge sharing, connection making and collaboration.

[RSVP HERE](#)

WWV YOUNG PROFESSIONALS Storytelling Workshop

Wednesday, May 15
5:30 pm- 7:30 pm

Chamber Board Room
29 E Sumach St
Walla Walla

How do you tell your story effectively? Specifically, how do you tell the story of your work, identity, what drives you, and what you want without it becoming a jumbled mess that leaves you exhausted? In this workshop, Nikki Brueggeman, Assist. Director of Career Readiness & Employer Engagement at Whitman College will walk participants through the process of crafting a personal narrative about their work or business that relays the impact of what you bring to the table and how your work can support a client, your start-up or stand out to potential funding support.

REGISTRATION





Fort Walla Walla Museum

James Payne
755 Myra Road
Walla Walla, WA
<https://www.fwwm.org/>

With Fort Walla Walla Museum’s mission to deepen our sense of community by safekeeping the past, informing the present, and shaping our future, Executive Director James Payne explains the museum also “enhances the quality of life for area residents and serves as an economic engine through tourism.”

According to James, “More than two million dollars are spent annually by tourists who visit the museum. These dollars recirculate several times, helping multiple families, before leaving our community. Taxes generated off these dollars subsidize our streets, parks, police, and fire protection.”

If your business deals directly with tourists, and you would like your front-line staff to help extend local stays and generate return visits, contact James at james@fwwm.org regarding free museum passes for those staff. The museum joined the Chamber in 1995 and hosts scores of programs each year. During the summer months, the museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Continued on Pg. 9

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Every month, we pose a new question to several local businesses, and this month we asked:

What do you wish more people know about your business/organization?

COLUMBIA REA MORE POWERFUL TOGETHER COMMUNITY GRANT

Columbia REA is currently accepting applications for its 2024 More Powerful Together Community Grant.

Grant funding will be available to eligible organizations from within the Columbia REA service area. The goal of the MPT Grant program is to make a one-time donation to one or more organizations that serve our communities. The maximum grant amount will be \$10,000.

- Applications will be accepted between Monday, May 6, and 5:30 pm, Friday, June 28.
- Applications received after 5:30 pm on June 28, 2024, will not be considered.
- Applications will be accepted via the online application form on our website at www.columbiarea.coop



SCORE MENTORING

Free Mentoring, Workshops and Resources for Entrepreneurs

SCORE's Mission & Values



Our Mission

SCORE's mission is to foster vibrant small business communities through mentoring and education.



Our Vision

We aim to give every person the support they need to thrive as a small business owner.



Our Values

Our core values provide the most ethical, unified approach to achieving our goals in a way that contributes to our greater cause.

If you're looking for local resources, free business templates, e-guides, checklists, and other helpful resources for starting or growing your enterprise, SCORE is your destination. Your mentor can assist in putting your ideas into action.

SCORE is the nation's largest source of free, expert mentoring, resources and educational content for small businesses. In 2023, SCORE helped start 31,167 new businesses, creating 120,948 non-owner jobs; 91% of SCORE's "in business" clients were still in business at the end of 2023 and 48% of "in business" clients reported an increase in revenue.

Sign up for access to all of SCORES resources.

MORE INFO & CREATE AN ACCOUNT

HORIZONS GRANT

Access to Postsecondary Education

Elevate and its ten regional partners recently received the Horizons Regional Grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. This grant aims to address persistently low college-going rates in Washington state, with focus areas in four regions of Washington state, including the Blue Mountain region. Elevate will serve as the backbone organization and will partner with area school districts, institutes of higher education, workforce, and nonprofit organizations to implement place-based strategies to support students' access to postsecondary education. Horizons defines postsecondary education broadly, to include four-year colleges and universities, community colleges, certificated programs, and registered apprenticeships. Horizons partnerships will support all high school students in the region, with a particular focus on the students who face the most significant barriers to postsecondary education, including students from rural and low-income backgrounds, and Latino students.

The local Horizons Partners include Walla Walla Public Schools, Dayton School District, College Place Public Schools, Prescott School District, Walla Walla Community College, Whitman College, the Walla Walla Valley Chamber, the Port of Columbia County, Communities in Schools, Educational Service District 123, and Elevate. This partnership will enhance supports for students and families, improve postsecondary pathways through expanding and improving college and career advising programs, and establish a network of internships, apprenticeships, and workforce mentors to empower students with real-world experience and essential skills for future endeavors.



NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Walla Walla Community College Officially Launches Alumni Relations Office

“Are you a WWCC Alum? We want to hear from you!

Walla Walla Community College has officially launched its Alumni Relations Office! And we hope all alumni will reconnect with us by visiting the alumni webpage (<https://foundation.wbcc.edu/alumni/>). It's the best way to make sure we have up to date contact information so we can keep you informed about college news, upcoming events, and opportunities to connect with other alums. A new e-newsletter will keep you in the know.

The Alumni Relations Office is looking to highlight many alumni on our website and/or in upcoming e-newsletters. If you would like to share your story or would like to nominate an inspiring alum, email Jen Lopez, the Alumni Relations Officer, at jennifer.lopez@wbcc.edu.”



Gesa Credit Union and Arbor Day Foundation Celebrate 31,000 Trees Planted

Gesa is proud to announce this Arbor Day that its Forevergreen Affinity Card, a fundraising program created in partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation, has had a successful first year.

With support from more than 7,000 Gesa members and card holders, the two organizations raised more than \$66,000, which will go towards the Foundation's reforestation initiatives and help plant more than 31,000 trees across the Pacific Northwest. With the funds, Arbor Day Foundation will plant the trees in Washington Department of Natural Resources Managed Forests. This initiative aims to restore Washington's public lands, addressing wildfires, diseases, and insect infestations.

The focus includes strategically planting Douglas fir, Western hemlock, and Western red cedar trees. These efforts aim to regenerate multi-species forest stands resilient to diseases and insects, ensuring a healthier future for the forests.

Washington Department of Health Partners with Local Businesses for Vaccine Clinics

The Care-a-Van is a mobile health clinic that serves people across Washington state. We work closely with community partners and local health jurisdictions (LHJ) or departments to increase access to health services for priority communities.

Register for an upcoming clinic by clicking an event below or visit [Care-a-Van Mobile Health Services | Washington State Department of Health](#) to schedule your own event.



Thursday, May 9
4:30 pm-7:30 pm

Greater Health Now
279 Farmland Rd
Walla Walla, WA

- New 2023-2024 Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines (Adults and Pediatrics)
- 2023-2024 flu vaccine (Adults and Pediatrics)
- Childhood Vaccines
- Mpox Vaccine
- Blood Glucose and Blood Pressure Screenings (Adults only)
- Naloxone (Narcan) Kits

Thursday, May 16
9:30 am-1:30 pm

First Fruits
74 Sara Lynne Lane
Prescott, WA

- New 2023-2024 Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines (Adults and Pediatrics)
- Blood Glucose and Blood Pressure Screenings (Adults only)
- Naloxone (Narcan) Kits



DOWNTOWN WALLA WALLA FOUNDATION

Sip & Stroll

May 9
5 pm-8 pm

Grab your girlfriends, spouse, or friends and plan to join us for a memorable evening of wine tasting downtown. We have many new participating tasting rooms and past favorites returning this year!

Mark your calendars for the second Thursday of the month May through August.



ANGELEONE

Fabulous Fundraiser: Art & Fashion Exposition

May 12
11 am-9 pm

Angeleone invites you to this family friendly Mother's Day event at the Marcus Whitman Hotel. There will be music, entertainment, children's activities and nails for moms.

Runway Fashion Show from 5 pm-6 pm

This fabulous fundraiser will benefit Hope Heals, Children's Hospital and Walla Walla families in need.

Admission is \$25 for individuals/ \$40 for couples and children are free! Tickets may be purchased at Angeleone (28 W Main St, Walla Walla).



FORT WALLA WALLA MUSEUM

Living History: Charles Tung, 1880's Entrepreneur and Translator

May 12
2 pm

Fort Walla Walla Museum presents Galen Tom in the role of 1880s entrepreneur and translator, Charles Tung. Tung's story, that of a California-Chinese transplant will take place in the Pioneer Village or Grand Hall, depending on the weather.

Tung, a leader in the local Chinese community of the end of the century, had been born in San Francisco before migrating to Walla Walla in 1880. Fluent in both English and Chinese, Tung often translated for local Chinese people who had begun moving to Walla Walla in 1872 to work on the Dorsey S. Baker railroad. They found transient work, too, because of the Idaho gold rush that had begun in the 1860s.



Thompson Family Acupuncture

Breanne Thompson
120 E. Birch Street, Suite 2
Walla Walla, WA
thompsonacupuncture.org



“At Thompson Family Acupuncture Clinic, we do more than just provide acupuncture to treat your symptoms,” explained Breanne Thompson, acupuncturist and owner. “At each visit we take time to sit down and connect with you. Listening to you and understanding what your body needs each time you come in allows us to customize your treatments to treat the root cause.

“We also provide craniosacral and visceral sessions, Chinese herbal medicine, diet and nutrition support, and often incorporate manual therapy, cupping, gua sha, and moxa into a session,” Breanne added.

According to her website, East Asian medicine provides an excellent complement to Western medical care.

Breanne bought the business from Lindsey Thompson in March 2023. (It’s coincidental that their last names are the same.) She earned a Masters in Acupuncture & East Asian Medicine from Bastyr University in Seattle in 2020. Prior to that, Breanne was a massage therapist trained in craniosacral, visceral synthesis and intraoral massage for 17 years.

Breanne’s healing heritage comes from her maternal side, a great, great-grandmother who was a medicine woman in the Tohono O’odham tribe in southern Arizona.

College Place Heating & Air Conditioning



Dennis Davis
970 NE Rose Street
College Place, WA
cpheat.com/



“College Place Heating and Air Conditioning is celebrating its 75th anniversary with the third generation of family ownership,” said Dennis Davis, president and owner, standing center. Two of Dennis’s children, Lance, 37, (seated left) and Kraig, 30, (seated right) have each been working with the company since they were of high school age. Dennis’s father, Harry Lorain Davis, started the business in 1949. Dennis took over in 1985, when his father passed away.

Lance, service manager, said, “We think long term and work with honesty and transparency.”

Kraig, installation manager, adds, “We don’t have the mindset of get in and out to make a quick buck. We get the job done right.”

Dennis outlines the work of the business: “We provide heating, air conditioning, repair, maintenance and installation for residential and light commercial projects and we have an electrical division that works on primarily residential projects serving the greater Walla Walla valley area. We are licensed for HVAC in Washington and Oregon, and for electrical in Washington.”

Les Schwab Tire Centers



Rob Ray
1735 SE Meadowbrook Blvd
College Place, WA
lesschwab.com/stores/wa/college-place



Rob Ray, general manager of Les Schwab Tire Centers in College Place, wants people to know that the business is “not just about tires.” Rob, born in Walla Walla and raised in Pendleton, Oregon, joined the company in 1998. He started in sales and services in Lincoln City, Oregon, became an assistant manager and worked in Lynnwood, Washington, then moved to Hesperia, California, to be general manager. Two years ago, the timing was right for Rob to lead the College Place location. He made the move to the Walla Walla valley which allows him and his wife to raise their three children here.

“We also do work on alignments, brakes, lift kits, shocks, batteries, oil changes, struts and shocks plus we can install aftermarket bumpers, wenchers and hitches. A customer can also get tire chains and windshield wiper blades here, not to overlook the free flat tire repair on most passenger vehicles,” Rob relayed.

Les Schwab, the founder of the tire retail chain, opened his first tire store in Prineville, Oregon, in 1952, and grew the business into more than 500 locations.



VITAL Wines

Maddie Richards
17 N. 2nd Ave.
Walla Walla, WA
vitalwinery.com



Maddie Richards, executive director of VITAL Wines, wants people to know: “That we are a nonprofit! VITAL is not just another winery in the Valley.

“We use all of our net profits to improve equity in access to healthcare for vineyard workers and their families. We rely on the generosity of our local wine industry to help us achieve our mission. From grape to glass, practically everything is donated. We in turn sell our wines in the tasting room to fund our grassroots programs. As a 501c3, we also accept individual donations and are awarded grants from foundations around the Pacific Northwest.”

Ashley Trout, president and founder of VITAL Wines, is also the owner and head winemaker at Brook & Bull Cellars, formerly known as March Cellars. She started both entities in 2016. Prior to that, Ashley launched and eventually sold Flying Trout Wines.

VITAL Wines tasting room is staffed with volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering – “purpose in every pour” – please contact Maddie at this email: together@vitalwinery.com or complete the form to volunteer found here: vitalwinery.com/get-involved.



Kerry's Trinidadian Cuisine

Kerry and Selene Ali
330 W Main Street
Walla Walla, WA

clover.com/online-ordering/kerrys-trinidadian-cu-walla-walla



"People are finally getting something new in Walla Walla – a different type of food – with my Trinidadian dishes that are not spicy. I cook dishes in a way that people can enjoy it," said Kerry Ali, co-owner of Kerry's Trinidadian Cuisine LLC. Daily dishes include various curries and stews with specialties such as Doubles, Aloo Pie and Pholourie available on Saturdays only.

"I grew up in Trinidad until I was twenty-five," explained Kerry. "I moved to Walla Walla in 2018 and a year later married my wife, Selene."

Fanny "Selene" Ali co-owns the food trailer business that originally began as a 'pop up' tent at the Farmer's Market last year. She has a day job as payroll administrator assistant with A-Z Tax & Accounting in Milton-Freewater, Oregon, but helps in the evenings after 5:00 p.m. and all day on Saturdays. Kerry juggles work with school. He is currently studying criminal justice at Walla Walla Community College and hopes to eventually complete an online law degree program and become an attorney.

Please welcome Kerry and Selene as new Chamber members at their ribbon cutting on Tuesday, May 7, at 3:30 p.m. at their trailer.



Exhibit Presentation & Reception

May 1, 2024, 6 PM
Reid Campus Center - G02
280 Boyer Avenue, Walla Walla, WA

Join local historian Nikki Brueggeman for a talk about her exhibit, "Sweeter Than the Onions: Narratives of Resilience from Walla Walla's Queer Community". Brueggeman will discuss the project which inspired the exhibit and give insights to Queer history in Walla Walla.

May Anniversaries

Thank you for your continued support of the Chamber!

1-2-3 Printing
 Serenity Point Counseling Services, LLC
 Visit Walla Walla
 Browne Family Vineyards
 Apple Valley News Now
 Pape Machinery, Inc
 Kontos Cellars
 Whitman Place
 Underriner Honda of Walla Walla
 Staples
 Evergreen Housing Development
 The Barn B&B Walla Walla
 Blue Zones Project- Walla Walla Valley
 Equine Comfort Massage, LLC
 All Trades Bookkeeping & Services
 Evergreen Home Loans
 2 cannon river construction
 Mama Monacelli's Kitchen
 Duly Noted Signatures
 Edward Jones- Melissa Wilcox
 Ziplly Fiber
 Agility Physical Therapy
 The Drayman House
 Copiers Northwest

Look Who's Celebrating 25 Years or More!

Northwest Grain Growers, Inc	91
Dayl Graves, Inc	67
Children's Home Society of Washington	53
Isaacs & Associates Inc	41
Walla Walla Public Schools	41
Key Technology Inc	33
Ketelsen Construction Co	33
Valley Residential Services	33
Walla Walla County Commissioners	32



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www.wwwchamber.com
marketing@wwwchamber.com



COMMUNITY PARTNERS



VISIONARIES

